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Rebel Junta Takes Over In Panama

PANAMA (AP)—A military coup overthrew the 11-day-old government of President Arnulfo Arias last night and rebel leaders consolidated their hold on the country today by naming a two-man junta.

Arias, 67, vowing to return, took refuge in the United States-controlled Canal Zone with most of his cabinet ministers. It was the third time in three decades he had been deposed by the National Guard, Panama's army.

Lt. Col. Omar Torrijos identified himself and Maj. Boris Martinez, commander of the Chiriqui Province Military zone, as coup leaders. Torrijos accused Arias of planning a dictatorship.

HEADING THE NEW two-man junta is Col. Jose M. Pinilla, deputy chief of the guard, who was retired by Arias Thursday. The second man is Col. Bolivar Urrutia, named by Arias the same day to head the guard.

Torrijos denied a communique that had reported earlier the detention of Urrutia. He said Pinilla and Urrutia were now selecting a cabinet.

Torrijos declared the National Guard in complete control of the country and said all young officers supported the coup. He charged Arias planned to convert the guard into a "political instrument of persecution."

In a shake-up ordered by Arias, Torrijos earlier had been relieved as executive secretary of the guard and ordered abroad. Other anti-Arias officers were given unimportant posts.

Torrijos said Arias supporters were being rounded up.

CLAD IN fatigues with his sleeves rolled up, Torrijos said the next step was to decide whether to set up a military junta or to "constitutionalize" the coup by calling in

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk said today the military overthrow of the elected government of Panama "is of profound concern to the United States."

"We are deeply distressed to learn that the Panamian National Guard has overthrown the recently inaugurated president, Dr. Arnulfo Arias," Rusk said.

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First Vice President Raul Arango to take the presidency. Arrango could not be located but was reported with Arias.

Aside from small knots of people at doorways, the city appeared calm. There was some panic along A Avenue, the street on which the guard's two-story headquarters is located, when the coup got under way at 9 p. m. last night.

ROVING GUARD patrols broke up any groups they found. There was an unconfirmed report that two men were wounded on Central Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare.

A clandestine radio station was reported by several listenters to be on the air, calling on the people to rally to Arias' support. Listeners reported the station changed frequency constantly.

Two pro-Arias radio stations were closed by the guard. The plant of the morning newspapers La Estrella de Panama and the Star and Herald was occupied by troops.

CANAL ZONE Gov. W. P. Leber and U.S. Ambassador Charles W. Adair were reported hurrying back from a meeting of the Panama Canal Co. board of directors in Washington.

The U.S. Southern Command's radio and television network advised U.S. citizens and servicemen residing in Panama to stay in their quarters and those in the Canal Zone not to enter cities except on essential business.

ARIAS, WHO was at a party for the newly appointed comptroller general when he received news of the uprising, made a unsuccessful attempt to reach the presidential palace. He turned back when he saw it was surrounded by rebel troops.